

## **BUDGET WEEK**

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus U.S. House of Representatives Jim Nussle, *Chairman* 

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Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation scheduled for the House floor

23 February 2004

Week	of	23	<b>February</b>	2004
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## **SUSPENSION CALENDAR**

- 1) Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Control Demonstration Act (H.R. 2707). This bill directs the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to assess the extent to which Salt Cedar and Russian Olive trees have infested national forests and public lands in western States. This bill neither increases direct spending spending not subject to appropriations nor reduces revenue.
- 2) **Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Act of 2003** (H.R. 2696). This bill authorizes the appropriation of \$15 million a year for the Secretary of Agriculture to establish and provide assistance to three research institutes. Those institutes would develop strategies to reduce the risk of wildfires and enhance the health of forests in certain western States. This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.
- 3) To Provide for the Conveyance of a Small Parcel of Bureau of Land Management Land in Douglas County, Oregon, to the County to Improve Management of and Recreational Access to the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area (S. 714).

  This bill neither increases direct spending nor decreases revenue.
- 4) Expressing the Sense of the House of Representatives With Respect to the Earthquake That Occurred in San Luis Obispo County, California, on December 22, 2003 (H.Res. 519). This resolution has no budget implications.
- 5) Recognizing and Honoring the Life of the Late Raul Julia, His Dedication to Ending World Hunger, and His Great Contributions to the Latino Community and the Performing Arts (H.Con.Res. 287).

  This resolution has no budget implications.
- 6) To Designate the Facility of the United States Postal Service Located at 2 West Main Street in Batavia, New York, as the "Barber Conable Post Office Building" (H.R. 3690).

  This bill neither increases direct spending nor reduces revenue.

(continued on reverse side)

PLEASE NOTE: This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to address support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A yellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems. Also note: Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication.

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the Committee on the Budget, U.S. House of Representatives. It has not been approved by the full committee and therefore may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

## **LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE**

Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2003 (H.R. 1997). Bill:

Judiciary and Armed Services Committees:

Summary: This bill creates a separate offense for those who commit certain Federal violent crimes

that result in the death or injury of a child being carried by its mother.

Cost: According to the Congressional Budget Office, those prosecuted and convicted under

H.R. 1997 could be subject to criminal fines. The Federal government might collect additional fines if the bill is enacted. Because criminal fines are speculative in nature, the

Budget Committee does not take them into account for purposes of the budget.

**Budget Act:** The bill does not violate any provisions of the Congressional Budget Act.

GAO Human Capital Reform Act of 2003 (H.R. 2751). Bill:

Committee: Government Reform

The bill allows the General Accounting Office [GAO] to modify its personnel and workforce **Summary:** 

> practices to allow greater flexibility in determining pay increases, pay retention rules, and other compensation matters. It permanently extends GAO's authority to offer buyout payments and early retirement to employees who voluntarily leave GAO. It also renames

GAO as the Government Accountability Office.

Cost: H.R. 2751 increases direct spending for retirement annuities and related health benefits

by about \$1 million in fiscal year 2004, by \$19 million over the 2004-08 period, and by \$40

million over the 2004-13 period.

**Budget Act:** The spending increase in the bill exceeds the allocation of new budget authority provided

by the budget resolution (H.Con.Res. 95) to the Government Reform Committee. For this reason, the bill violates section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act. In addition, it violates section 401 of the Budget Act because it creates new entitlement authority in the

same fiscal year in which it is considered (fiscal year 2004).

Prepared by ...... The Committee on the Budget